

Cambridge / Mass / Nov 29 1838

Dear Sir

At a late meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Rumford Committee made a report recommending that the premium provided by Count Rumford for inventions or discoveries connected with the subject Light and Heat, should be awarded to Dr Hare for his invention of the compound blow pipe. This premium, which must be given in the form of "one gold and one silver medal", can be awarded only at the annual meeting of the Academy, which is held in May, consequently the report was not acted upon by final acceptance. An order was passed, however, directing the committee to procure dies and to have the medals struck and ready for the disposal of the Academy, at the proper time.

Now the object of this letter is to ask the favour of your assistance in procuring the dies and medals. The medals will be of large size, the value may be three hundred dollars, the dies of course not included in this sum, and it is the intention of the committee to have them executed in the best manner that the arts of the country will furnish. It is determined that the medals shall bear a head of Count Rumford with an inscription upon the reverse. Will you